

**Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (original): A method for operating a medical device, the method comprising the steps of:

    inputting into a first computer a first patient identifier and an operating parameter for the medical device;

    inputting into a second computer, from a first source, a second patient identifier;

    inputting into the second computer, from a second source, a medication identifier, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier;

    sending the medication identifier to the first computer, if the second patient identifier is equivalent to the third patient identifier; and

    sending the operating parameter from the first computer to the medical device, if the third patient identifier is equivalent to the first patient identifier, where the operating parameter does not pass through the second computer.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

    inputting into the first computer a second medication identifier, where the step of sending the operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second medication identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, where the step of inputting into the first computer includes converting a signal generated by an input device to a computer readable medium format.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, where the first computer is at a central location.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, where the first computer is a pharmacy computer.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, a hospital patient ID number, a hospital bed location, and a name of a patient's relative.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, where the operating parameter is one of a group of operating parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of: a medication flow per unit of time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug name, a dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, where the step of inputting into a second computer from a first source includes converting a signal generated by an input device to a computer readable medium format.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1, where the first source is a wristband.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1, where the first source is one of a group of first sources, where the group of first sources consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag, a drug label, laser readable data, a camera-type bar code reader, an RFID reader, a magnetic stripe reader, and radio-frequency readable data.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 1, where the second computer is at a remote location.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 1, where the second computer is a personal digital assistant.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 1, where the second source is a medication label.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 1, where the second source is one of a group of second sources, where the group of second sources consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag, a medication label, laser readable data, and radio-frequency readable data.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 1, where the medication identifier includes one of a group of medical identifiers, where the group of medical identifiers consists of: a drug name, a dosage, a manufacturer, a batch, an expiration date, a National Drug Code (NDC) number, a proprietary database drug identifier, a company product code number, and a drug prescriber.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: sending the operating parameter to the second computer if the first and second patient identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: using the operating parameter to program the medical device.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 1, where the step of sending the medication identifier to the first computer includes the use of a wireless communication path.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 1, where the step of sending the operating parameter from the first computer to the medical device includes the use of a wireless communication path.

Claim 21 (original): system for operating a medical device, the system comprising:  
a first computer, the first computer designed to accept a first patient identifier and an operating parameter for the medical device;  
a second computer, the second computer designed to accept a second patient identifier from a first source, the second computer designed to accept a medication identifier from a second source, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier,  
where the second computer is designed to send the medication identifier to the first computer if the second patient identifier and the third patient identifier are equivalent;  
where the first computer is designed to send the operating parameter to the medical device if the third patient identifier is equivalent to the first patient identifier, where the operating parameter does not pass through the second computer.

Claim 22 (original): The system of claim 21, where the first computer is designed to accept a second medication identifier, where the first computer is designed to send the operating parameter to the medical device only if the first medication identifier is equivalent to the second medication identifier.

Claim 23 (original): The system of claim 21, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 24 (original): The system of claim 21, where the first computer is at a central location.

Claim 25 (original): The system of claim 21, where the first computer is a pharmacy computer.

Claim 26 (original): The system of claim 21, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, and a name of a patient's relative.

Claim 27 (original): The system of claim 21, where the operating parameter is one of a group of operating parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of a medication flow per unit of time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug name, a dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

Claim 28 (original): The system of claim 21, where the first source is a wristband.

Claim 29 (original): The system of claim 21, where the first source is one of the group of first sources, where the group of first sources consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag, a drug label, laser readable data, and radio-frequency readable data.

Claim 30 (original): The system of claim 21, where the second computer is at a remote location.

Claim 31 (original): The system of claim 21, where the second computer is a personal digital assistant.

Claim 32 (original): The system of claim 21, where the second source is a medication label.

Claim 33 (original): The system of claim 21, where the second source is one of a group of second sources, where the group of second sources consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag, a drug label, laser readable data, and radio-frequency readable data a bar code.

Claim 34 (original): The system of claim 21, where the medication identifier is one of a group of medication identifiers, where the group of medical identifiers consists of: a drug name, a dosage, a manufacturer, a batch, an expiration date, a National Drug Code (NDC) number, a proprietary database drug identifier, a company product code number, and a drug prescriber.

Claim 35 (original): The system of claim 21, where the first computer is designed to send the operating parameter to the medical device if the second patient identifier and the third patient identifier are equivalent to the first patient identifier.

Claim 36 (original): A program for operating a medical device, the program stored on a computer readable medium, the program comprising logic for:

accepting a first input from a first computer, the first input including a first patient identifier and an operating parameter for the medical device;

accepting a second input from a second computer, the second input including a first portion and a second portion, the first portion coming from a first source, the first portion including a second patient identifier, the second portion coming from a second source, the second portion including a medication identifier, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier;

sending the medication identifier to the first computer, if the second patient identifier is equivalent to the third patient identifier; and

sending the operating parameter to the medical device, if the third patient identifier is equivalent to the first patient identifier, where the operating parameter does not pass through the second computer.

Claim 37 (original): The program of claim 36, further comprising logic for:

inputting into the first computer a second medication identifier, where the logic for sending the operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second medication identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 38 (original): The program of claim 36, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 39 (original): The program of claim 36, further comprising logic for: sending the operating parameter to the second computer if the first and second patient identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 40 (original): The program of claim 36, further comprising logic for:  
using the operating parameter to program the medical device.

Claim 41 (original): A system for operating a medical device, the system comprising:  
means for accepting a first input at a central location, the first input including a first patient  
identifier and an operating parameter for the medical device;  
means for accepting a second input at a remote location, the second input including a first  
portion and a second portion, the first portion coming from a first source, the first portion  
including a second patient identifier, the second portion coming from a second source, the  
second portion including a medication identifier, the medication identifier including a third  
patient identifier;  
means for sending the medication identifier to the central location, if the second patient  
identifier is equivalent to the third patient identifier; and  
means for sending the operating parameter to the medical device, if the third patient  
identifier is equivalent to the first patient identifier, where the operating parameter does not pass  
through a computer prior to being accepted by the medical device.

Claim 42 (original): The system of claim 41, further comprising:  
means for accepting a second medication identifier at the central location, where the step  
of sending the operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second  
medication identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 43 (original): The system of claim 41, where the medical device is an infusion  
pump.

Claim 44 (original): The system of claim 41, where the means for sending the operating  
parameter to the medical device, is a means for sending the operating parameter to the medical  
device if the second patient identifier and the third patient identifier are equivalent to the first  
patient identifier.

Claim 45 (original): A method for operating a medical device, the method comprising the steps of: accepting a first input at a first computer, the first input including a first patient identifier and an operating parameter for the medical device;

accepting a second input from a second computer, the second input associated with information derived from a device attached to a patient, the second input including a second patient identifier;

accepting a third input from the second computer, the third input associated with information affixed to a medication container, the third input including a medication identifier, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier; and

sending the operating parameter from the first computer to the medical device if the first, second, and third patient identifiers are equivalent, where the operating parameter is sent without passing through the second computer.

Claim 46 (original): The method of claim 45, where the first input includes a second medication identifier, where the step of sending the operating parameter from the first computer to the medical device is performed only if the first and second medication identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 47 (original): The method of claim 45, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 48 (original): The method of claim 45, where the step of accepting a first input at the first computer includes converting a signal generated by an input device to a computer readable medium format.

Claim 49 (original): The method of claim 45, where the first computer is at a central location.

Claim 50 (original): The method of claim 45, where the first computer is a pharmacy computer.

Claim 51 (original): The method of claim 45, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, a hospital patient ID number, a hospital bed location, and a name of a patient's relative.

Claim 52 (original): The method of claim 45, where the operating parameter is one of a group of operating parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of: a medication flow per unit of time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug name, a dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

Claim 53 (original): The method of claim 45, where the step of accepting a second input from a second computer includes converting a signal generated by an input device to a computer readable medium format.

Claim 54 (original): The method of claim 45, where the device attached to a patient is a wristband.

Claim 55 (original): The method of claim 45, where the device includes the information in one of a group of formats, where the group of formats consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag, a drug label, laser readable data, a camera-type bar code reader, an RFID reader, a magnetic stripe reader, and radio-frequency readable data.

Claim 56 (original): The method of claim 45, where the second computer is at a remote location.

Claim 57 (original): The method of claim 45, where the second computer is a personal digital assistant.

Claim 58 (original): The method of claim 45, where the medication identifier is included in a medication label.

Claim 59 (original): The method of claim 45, where the medication identifier includes one of a group of medical identifiers, where the group of medical identifiers consists of: a drug name, a dosage, a manufacturer, a batch, an expiration date, a National Drug Code (NDC) number, a proprietary database drug identifier, a company product code number, and a drug prescriber.

Claim 60 (original): The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of:  
using the operating parameter to program the medical device.

Claim 61 (original): The method of claim 45, where the step of sending the operating parameter from the first computer to the medical device includes the use of a wireless communication path.

Claim 62 (original): A program for operating a medical device, the program stored on a computer readable medium, the program comprising logic for:

accepting a first input at a first computer, the first input including a first patient identifier and an operating parameter for the medical device;

accepting a second input from a second computer, the second input associated with information derived from a device attached to a patient, the second input including a second patient identifier;

accepting a third input from the second computer, the third input associated with a information affixed to a medication container, the third input including a medication identifier, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier; and

sending the operating parameter from the first computer to the medical device if the first, second, and third patient identifiers are equivalent, without passing through the second computer.

Claim 63 (original): The program of claim 62, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 64 (original): The program of claim 62, where the device attached to a patient is a wristband.

Claim 65 (original): The program of claim 62, where the medication identifier is included in a medication label.

Claim 66 (original): The program of claim 62, further comprising logic for: using the operating parameter to program the medical device.

Claim 67 (original): A method for operating a medical device, the method comprising the steps of: inputting, at a central location, a first patient identifier and a first operating parameter for the medical device;

inputting from a first source, at a remote location, a second patient identifier;

inputting from a second source, at the remote location, a medication identifier, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier;

sending the medication identifier to the central location, if the third patient identifier is equivalent to the first patient identifier;

finding a latest operating parameter at the central location, if the third patient identifier is equivalent to the first patient identifier; and

sending a confirmation to the remote location, if the first operating parameter is equivalent to the latest operating parameter; and

sending the latest operating parameter to the medical device, if the first operating parameter is equivalent to the latest operating parameter.

Claim 68 (original): The method of claim 67, further comprising the step of:  
inputting, at the central location, a second medication identifier, where the step of sending the latest operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second medication identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 69 (original): The method of claim 67, wherein the latest operating parameter is sent directly to the medical device.

Claim 70 (original): The method of claim 67, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 71 (original): The method of claim 67, where the step of inputting from a first source includes converting a signal generated by an input device to a computer readable medium format.

Claim 72 (original): The method of claim 67, where the central location is a pharmacy.

Claim 73 (original): The method of claim 67, where the inputting at a central location is inputting into a computer at the central location.

Claim 74 (original): The method of claim 67, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, a hospital patient ID number, a hospital bed location, and a name of a patient's relative.

Claim 75 (original): The method of claim 67, where the operating parameter is one of a group of operating parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of: a medication flow per unit of time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug name, a dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

Claim 76 (original): The method of claim 67, where the first source is a wristband.

Claim 77 (original): The method of claim 67, where the first source is one of the group of first sources, where the group of first sources consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag, a drug label, laser readable data, a camera-type bar code reader, an RFID reader, a magnetic stripe reader, and radio-frequency readable data.

Claim 78 (original): The method of claim 67, where the step of inputting at a remote location is a step of inputting to a computer at a remote location.

Claim 79 (original): The method of claim 67, where the where the step of inputting at a remote location is a step of inputting into a digital assistant.

Claim 80 (original): The method of claim 67, where the second source is a medication label.

Claim 81 (original): The method of claim 67, where the second source is one of a group of second sources, where the group of second sources consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag, a medication label, laser readable data, and radio-frequency readable data.

Claim 82 (original): The method of claim 67, where the medication identifier includes one of a group of medical identifiers, where the group of medical identifiers consists of: a drug name, a dosage, a manufacturer, a batch, an expiration date, a National Drug Code (NDC) number, a proprietary database drug identifier, a company product code number, and a drug prescriber.

Claim 83 (original): The method of claim 67, further comprising the step of: sending the latest operating parameter to the digital assistant if the first and second patient identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 84 (original): The method of claim 67, further comprising the step of: using the latest operating parameter to program the medical device.

Claim 85 (original): The method of claim 67, where the step of sending the medication identifier to the central location includes the use of a wireless communication path.

Claim 86 (original): The method of claim 67, where the step of sending the latest operating parameter to the medical device includes the use of a wireless communication path.

Claim 87 (original): A system for operating a medical device, the system comprising:  
a first processor at a central location, the first processor designed to accept a first patient identifier and a first operating parameter for the medical device; and

a second processor at a remote location, the second processor designed to accept a second patient identifier from a first source; the second processor designed to accept a medication identifier from a second source, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier,

where the second processor is designed to send the medication identifier to the central location, if the third patient identifier is equivalent to the first patient identifier,

where the first processor is designed to find the latest operating parameter at the central location, if the third patient identifier is equivalent to the first patient identifier,

where the first processor is designed to send a confirmation to the second processor, if the first operating parameter is equivalent to the latest operating parameter, and

where the first processor is designed to send the latest operating parameter to the medical device, if the first operating parameter is equivalent to the latest operating parameter.

Claim 88 (original): The system of claim 87, where the first computer is designed to accept a second medication identifier, where the first computer is designed to send the latest operating parameter to the medical device only if the first medication identifier is equivalent to the second medication identifier.

Claim 89 (original): The system of claim 87, where the first processor is designed to send the latest operating parameter to the medical device without passing through the second processor, if the first operating parameter is equivalent to the latest operating parameter.

Claim 90 (original): The system of claim 87, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 91 (original): The system of claim 87, where the first source is a wristband.

Claim 92 (original): The system of claim 87, where the second processor is a personal digital assistant.

Claim 93 (original): The system of claim 87, where the second source is a medication label.

Claim 94 (original): The system of claim 87, where the first processor is designed to send the operating parameter to the medical device if the second patient identifier and the third patient identifier are equivalent to the first patient identifier.

Claim 95 (original): A program for operating a medical device, the program stored on a computer readable medium, the program comprising logic for:

accepting a first patient identifier and a first operating parameter for the medical device from an input device at a central location;

accepting a second patient identifier from a first source, the first source at a remote location; accepting a medication identifier from a second source, the second source at the remote location, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier;

sending the medication identifier to the central location, if the third patient identifier is equivalent to the first patient identifier;

finding a latest operating parameter, if the third patient identifier is equivalent to the first patient identifier;

sending a confirmation to the remote location, if the first operating parameter is equivalent to the latest operating parameter; and

sending the latest operating parameter to the medical device, if the first operating parameter is equivalent to the latest operating parameter.

Claim 96 (original): The program of claim 95, further comprising logic for:

accepting a second medication identifier at the central location, where the logic for sending the latest operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second medication identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 97 (original): The program of claim 95, where the logic for sending the latest operating parameter to the medical device is logic for sending the latest operating parameter directly to the medical device.

Claim 98 (original): The program of claim 95, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 99 (original): The program of claim 95, further comprising logic for: sending the latest operating parameter to the second computer if the first and second patient identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 100 (original): The program of claim 95, further comprising logic for: using the latest operating parameter to program the medical device.

Claim 101 (original): A method for operating a medical device, the method comprising the steps of:

storing medical treatment data in a memory associated with a fast processor, the medical treatment data including a first patient identification data, a first medication identification data, and a first plurality of medical device operating parameters, where the first plurality of medical device operating parameters is associated with the medical treatment data and the patient identification data;

inputting second medication identification data into a second processor, where the second medication identification data is associated with medication to be administered to a patient, where the medical device is operably connected to the second processor;

inputting second patient identification data into the second processor;

sending the second medication identification data and the second patient identification data from the second processor to the first processor;

finding a latest plurality of medical device operating parameters in the memory associated with the first processor; and

sending the latest plurality of medical device operating parameters to the second processor if a comparison of the first and second patient identifiers satisfies a first predetermined condition, and if a comparison of the first and second medication identification data satisfies a second predetermined condition;

sending a confirmation to the second processor if the first plurality of operating parameters is equivalent to the latest plurality of operating parameters;

sending the latest plurality of operating parameters to the medical device if the first plurality of operating parameters is equivalent to the latest plurality of operating parameters.

Claim 102 (original): The method of claim 101, further comprising the step of: inputting into the first processor a second medication identifier, where the step of sending the latest plurality of operating parameters to the medical device is performed only if the first and second medication identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 103 (original): The method of claim 101, where the first source is a wristband.

Claim 104 (original): The method of claim 101, where the second computer is at a remote location.

Claim 105 (original): The method of claim 101, where the second processor is the processor of a digital assistant.

Claim 106 (original): The method of claim 101, where the second source is a medication label.

Claim 107 (original): The method of claim 101, further comprising the step of: using the operating parameter to program the medical device.

Claim 108 (original): A program for operating a medical device, the program stored on a computer readable medium, the program comprising logic for:

storing medical treatment data in a memory associated with a first processor, the medical treatment data including a first patient identification data, a first medication identification data, and a first plurality of medical device operating parameters, where the first plurality of medical device operating parameters is associated with the medical treatment data and the patient identification data;

accepting a second medication identification data into a second processor, where the second medication identification data is associated with medication to be administered to a patient, where the medical device is operably connected to the second processor;

accepting a second patient identification data into the second processor;

sending the second medication identification data and the second patient identification data from the second processor to the first processor;

finding a latest plurality of medical device operating parameters in the memory associated with the first processor;

sending the latest plurality of medical device operating parameters to the second processor if a comparison of the first and second patient identifiers satisfies a first predetermined condition, and if a comparison of the first and second medication identification data satisfies a second predetermined condition;

sending a confirmation to the second processor if the first plurality of operating parameters is equivalent to the latest plurality of operating parameters; and

sending the latest plurality of operating parameters to the medical device if the first plurality of operating parameters is equivalent to the latest plurality of operating parameters.

Claim 109 (original): The program of claim 108, further comprising logic for:

accepting into the first processor a second medication identifier, where the step of sending the latest plurality of operating parameters to the medical device is performed only if the first and second medication identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 110 (original): The program of claim 108, where the first source is a wristband.

Claim 111 (original): The method of claim 108, where the second computer is at a remote location.

Claim 112 (original): The program of claim 108, where the second processor is the processor of a digital assistant.

Claim 113 (original): The program of claim 108, where the second source is a medication label.

Claim 114 (original): The program of claim 108, further comprising logic for: programming the medical device using the latest plurality of operating parameters.

Claim 115 (original): A method for operating a medical device, the method comprising the steps of: inputting, at a central location, a first patient identifier and a first operating parameter for the medical device;

inputting a second patient identifier into a processor from a first source, the processor being at a remote location;

inputting a medication identifier and a second operating parameter for the medical device into the processor, the medication identifier and a second operating parameter coming from a second source, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier;

sending the medication identifier and the second operating parameter to the central location, if the second patient identifier is equivalent to the third patient identifier;

sending the second operating parameter to the medical device without passing through the processor, if the first and second operating parameters are equivalent and if the first and second patient identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 116 (original): The method of claim 115, further comprising the step of: inputting a second medication identifier, at the central location, where the step of sending the operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second medication identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 117 (original): The method of claim 115, where the processor is integral with the medical device.

Claim 118 (original): The method of claim 115, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 119 (original): The method of claim 115, where the step of inputting at the central location is a step of inputting into a pharmacy computer.

Claim 120 (original): The method of claim 115, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, a hospital patient ID number, a hospital bed location, and a name of a patient's relative.

Claim 121 (original): The method of claim 115, where the operating parameter is one of a group of operating parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of: a medication flow per unit of time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug name, a dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

Claim 122 (original): The method of claim 115, where the step of inputting into a processor from a first source includes converting a signal generated by an input device to a computer readable medium format.

Claim 123 (original): The method of claim 115, where the first source is a wristband.

Claim 124 (original): The method of claim 115, where the first source is one of the group of first sources, where the group of first sources consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag, a drug label, laser readable data, a camera-type bar code reader, an RFID reader, a magnetic stripe reader, and radio-frequency readable data.

Claim 125 (original): The method of claim 115, where the processor is the processor of a digital assistant.

Claim 126 (original): The method of claim 115, where the second source is a medication label.

Claim 127 (original): The method of claim 115, where the second source is one of a group of second sources, where the group of second sources consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag, a medication label, laser readable data, and radio-frequency readable data.

Claim 128 (original): The method of claim 115, where the medication identifier includes one of a group of medical identifiers, where the group of medical identifiers consists of: a drug name, a dosage, a manufacturer, a batch, an expiration date, a National Drug Code (NDC) number, a proprietary database drug identifier, a company product code number, and a drug prescriber.

Claim 129 (original): The method of claim 115, further comprising the step of:  
sending the second operating parameter to the processor if the first and second patient identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 130 (original): The method of claim 115, further comprising the step of:  
using the operating parameter to program the medical device.

Claim 131 (original): The method of claim 115, where the step of sending the medication identifier to the central location includes the use of a wireless communication path.

Claim 132 (original): The method of claim 115, where the step of sending the operating parameter from the to the medical device includes the use of a wireless communication path.

Claim 133 (original): A system for operating a medical device, the system comprising:  
a computer at a central location, the computer designed to accept a first patient identifier and a first operating parameter for the medical device;

a processor at a remote location, the processor designed to accept a second patient identifier from a first source; the processor designed to accept a medication identifier and a second operating parameter for the medical device from a second source, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier;

where the processor sends the medication identifier and the second operating parameter to the computer, if the second patient identifier is equivalent to the third patient identifier, and

where the computer sends the second operating parameter to the medical device without passing through the processor, if the first and second operating parameters are equivalent and if the first and second patient identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 134 (original): The method of claim 133, where the processor is integral with the medical device.

Claim 135 (original): The system of claim 133, where the computer is designed to accept a second medication identifier, where the computer is designed to send the second operating parameter to the medical device only if the first medication identifier is equivalent to the second medication identifier.

Claim 136 (original): The system of claim 133, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 137 (original): The system of claim 133, where the first source is a wristband.

Claim 138 (original): The system of claim 133, where the processor is a personal digital assistant.

Claim 139 (original): The system of claim 133, where the second source is a medication label.

Claim 140 (original): The system of claim 133, where the computer is designed to send the operating parameter to the processor if the second patient identifier and the third patient identifier are equivalent to the first patient identifier.

Claim 141 (original): A program for operating a medical device, the program stored on a computer readable medium, the program comprising logic for:

accepting, at a central location, a first patient identifier and a first operating parameter for the medical device;

accepting a second patient identifier into a processor from a first source at a remote location; accepting a medication identifier and a second operating parameter for the medical device at the remote location, the medication identifier and a second operating parameter coming from a second source, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier;

sending the medication identifier and the second operating parameter to the central location, if the second patient identifier is equivalent to the third patient identifier;

sending the second operating parameter to the medical device without passing through the processor, if the first and second operating parameters are equivalent and if the first and second patient identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 142 (original): The program of claim 141, further comprising logic for:

accepting a second medication identifier at the central location, where the logic for sending the latest operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second medication identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 143 (original): The program of claim 141, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 144 (original): The program of claim 141, further comprising logic for: sending the second operating parameter to the processor if the first and second patient identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 145 (original): The program of claim 141, further comprising logic for: using the second operating parameter to program the medical device.

Claim 146 (original): A method for operating a medical device, the method comprising the steps of: reading a first patient identifier at a remote location, the first patient identifier being attached to a patient's body;

reading a medication identifier at the remote location, the medication identifier including a second patient identifier and a first medical device identifier;

reading a second medical device identifier at the remote location, the second medical device identifier being affixed to the medical device; and

receiving an operating parameter for the medical device from a central location, if the first patient identifier is equivalent to the second patient identifier, and if the medical device identifier and the second medical device identifier are equivalent.

Claim 147 (original): The method of claim 146, further comprising the step of:

inputting at the central location a second medication identifier, where the step of sending the operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second medication identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 148 (original): The method of claim 146, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 149 (original): The method of claim 146, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, a hospital patient ID number, a hospital bed location, and a name of a patient's relative.

Claim 150 (original): The method of claim 146, where the operating parameter is one of a group of operating parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of: a medication flow per unit of time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug name, a dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

Claim 151 (original): The method of claim 146, where the steps of reading include the step of reading with a digital assistant.

Claim 152 (original): The method of claim 146, where the medication identifier includes one of a group of medical identifiers, where the group of medical identifiers consists of: a drug name, a dosage, a manufacturer, a batch, an expiration date, a National Drug Code (NDC) number, a proprietary database drug identifier, a company product code number, and a drug prescriber.

Claim 153 (original): The method of claim 146, further comprising the step of: using the operating parameter to program the medical device.

Claim 154 (original): The method of claim 146, where the step of receiving an operating parameter for the medical device from a central location includes the use of a wireless communication path.

Claim 155 (original): A system for operating a medical device, the system comprising:  
a digital assistant designed to read a first patient identifier, the first patient identifier being attached to a patient's body,

the digital assistant being designed to read a medication identifier at the remote location, the medication identifier including a second patient identifier and a first medical device identifier,

the digital assistant designed to read a second medical device identifier at the remote location, the second medical device identifier being affixed to the medical device, and

the digital assistant designed to trigger the transmission of an operating parameter for the medical device from a central location to a medical device, if the first patient identifier is equivalent to the second patient identifier, and if the medical device identifier and the second medical device identifier are equivalent.

Claim 156 (original): The system of claim 155, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 157 (original): The system of claim 155, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, and a name of a patient's relative.

Claim 158 (original): The system of claim 155, where the operating parameter is one of a group of operating parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of a medication flow per unit of time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug name, a dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

Claim 159 (original): The system of claim 155, where the medication identifier is a medication label.

Claim 160 (original): A program for operating a medical device, the program stored on a computer readable medium, the program comprising logic for:

reading a first patient identifier at a remote location, the first patient identifier being attached to a patient's body;

reading a medication identifier at the remote location, the medication identifier including a second patient identifier and a first medical device identifier;

reading a second medical device identifier at the remote location, the second medical device identifier being affixed to the medical device; and

trigger the transmission of an operating parameter for the medical device from a central location to a medical device, if the first patient identifier is equivalent to the second patient identifier, and if the medical device identifier and the second medical device identifier are equivalent.

Claim 161 (original): The program of claim 160 further comprising logic for:

accepting a second medication identifier at the central location, where the logic for transmitting the operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second medication identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 162 (original): The program of claim 160, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 163 (original): The program of claim 160, further comprising logic for:

triggering the transmission of the operating parameter to the digital assistant if the first and second patient identifiers are equivalent.

Claim 164 (original): The program of claim 160, further comprising logic for:  
using the operating parameter to program the medical device.

Claim 165 (original): A method for operating a medical device, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a first operating parameter at a central location, the first operating parameter associated with a first patient identifier;

accepting a second operating parameter into a medical device, the medical device being at a remote location;

accepting the first patient identifier into the medical device;

sending the second operating parameter and the first patient identifier to the central location; and

sending an alarm to the remote location, if the first operating parameter is not equivalent to the second operating parameter.

Claim 166 (original): The method of claim 165, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 167 (original): The method of claim 165, where the first operating parameter is stored in a computer at a central location.

Claim 168 (original): The method of claim 165, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, a hospital patient ID number, a hospital bed location, and a name of a patient's relative.

Claim 169 (original): The method of claim 165, where the operating parameter is one of a group of operating parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of: a medication flow per unit of time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug name, a dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

Claim 170 (original): The method of claim 165, where the step of accepting the first patient identifier into the medical device is a step of accepting the first patient identifier from a wristband into the medical device.

Claim 171 (original): The method of claim 165, where the step of sending an alarm is a step of sending an alarm to a digital assistant.

Claim 172 (original): The method of claim 165, where the second operating parameter is derived from a medication label.

Claim 173 (original): The method of claim 165, where the step of sending an alarm to the remote location includes the use of a wireless communication path.

Claim 174 (original): The method of claim 165, where the step of sending the second operating parameter and the first patient identifier to the central location includes the use of a wireless communication path.

Claim 175 (original): A system for operating a medical device, the system comprising:  
a computer at a central location, the computer designed to store a first operating parameter, the first operating parameter associated with a first patient identifier;

a medical device having a processor and an input device, the input device designed to read a second operating parameter from a medication label, the input device designed to read the first patient identifier from a wristband using the input device, the medical device at a remote location, the processor designed to send the second operating parameter and the first patient identifier to the central location,

where the computer is designed to send an alarm to the remote location, if the first operating parameter is not equivalent to the second operating parameter.

Claim 176 (original): The system of claim 175, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 177 (original): The system of claim 175, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, a hospital patient ID number, a hospital bed location, and a name of a patient's relative.

Claim 178 (original): The system of claim 175, where the first operating parameter is one of a group of operating parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of: a medication flow per unit of time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug name, a dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

Claim 179 (original): The system of claim 175, where the system sends the alarm to a digital assistant.

Claim 180 (original): The system of claim 175, where the system sends the alarm using a wireless communication path.

Claim 181 (original): The system of claim 175, where the medical device sends the second operating parameter and the first patient identifier to the central location using a wireless communication path.

Claim 182 (original): A program for operating a medical device, the program stored on a computer readable medium, the program comprising logic for:

storing a first operating parameter at a central location, the first operating parameter associated with a first patient identifier;

accepting a second operating parameter into a medical device, the medical device at a remote location;

accepting the first patient identifier into the medical device;

sending the second operating parameter and the first patient identifier to the central location;

sending an alarm to the remote location, if the first operating parameter is not equivalent to the second operating parameter.

Claim 183 (original): The program of claim 182, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

Claim 184 (original): The program of claim 182, where the first operating parameter is stored in a computer at a central location.

Claim 185 (original): The program of claim 182, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, a hospital patient ID number, a hospital bed location, and a name of a patient's relative.

Claim 186 (original): The program of claim 182, where the operating parameter is one of a group of operating parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of: a medication flow per unit of time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug name, a dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

Claim 187 (original): The program of claim 182, where the logic for accepting the first patient identifier into the medical device is logic for accepting the first patient identifier from a wristband into the medical device.

Claim 188 (original): The program of claim 182, where the logic for sending an alarm is logic for sending an alarm to a digital assistant.

Claim 189 (original): The program of claim 182, where the second operating parameter is derived from a medication label.

Claim 190 (original): The program of claim 182, where the logic for sending an alarm to the remote location includes the use of logic for using a wireless communication path.

Claim 191 (original): The program of claim 182, where the logic for sending the second operating parameter and the first patient identifier to the central location includes logic for using of a wireless communication path.